



## Cabarrus County EMS

---

**TO:** The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**FROM:** Jimmy Lentz

**DATE:** August 5, 2019

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing, on behalf of Cabarrus County EMS, to offer our support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) *I-85/I-40 Foundations for Safer and Automated Transportation (FAST)* application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD Program.

The I-85/I-40 corridor is critical to east-west long-distance travel regionally and is vital for local trips between three of North Carolina's major metropolitan areas. This project, when combined with other recent grant applications, demonstrates how complementary investments and a coordinated strategy can improve corridor performance, user safety, freight mobility, and digital connectivity of communities in central North Carolina.

We understand how the project elements will benefit the transportation system in the state:

1. Completes the NCDOT fiber-optic backbone from Raleigh to Charlotte, allowing operations personnel and first responders immediate and reliable access to a variety of traffic management systems.
2. Supports the eventual interconnection of freight facilities.
3. Supports the deployment of connected and automated vehicle technology.
4. Introduces new state-of-the art technology to improve traffic safety along the heavily traveled corridor, by focusing on risky driver behavior and non-ideal road conditions.
5. Provides the potential for improved cutting-edge broadband access to both urban and rural communities along the corridor.

These are just a few of the many reasons we strongly support the NCDOT I-85 / I-40 application. We fully endorse the plans and goals of the project and will work with NCDOT as needed during the implementation and operation phases of the project.

I may be reached at 704/920-2601 or [jwlentz@cabarruscounty.us](mailto:jwlentz@cabarruscounty.us) for additional information as required.

Sincerely,

*Jimmy Lentz*

Jimmy Lentz, NREMT-P  
EMS Director